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Fruit Acreage Increases

The January 1, 2001 Fruit Acreage Survey in Washington shows the industry is larger than eight years earlier. The total of the fruit included in the survey was 256,100 acres, 14 percent more than the January 1, 1993 total acreage of 223,700 acres.

Apples have the largest acreage at 192,000, 12 percent more than the 172,000 acres on January 1, 1993. Sweet cherries had the sharpest increase, 76 percent with 29,000 acres for January 1, 2001 compared with 16,500 acres in 1993.

The increase for total fruit is similar for all regions, but the change of individual fruits show different trends. The Wenatchee area had a drop in apple acreage and an increase in both sweet cherries and pears. Both apples and sweet cherries increased and pears decreased in the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin. All other areas of the state had a similar pattern as the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin, but on a smaller scale.

Bartlett and winter pear estimates were not available by area for January 1, 1993. However, the dominant type of pear in Wenatchee is the winter pear, and the Bartlett pear is the major variety of the Yakima Valley for 2001.

Apricots, winter pears, and prunes/plums showed decreased acreage, while nectarines are estimated at the same level. Peach and Bartlett pear acreage increased from the 1993 levels.

The Fruit Acreage Survey was conducted as a mail, phone, and personal interview survey that included all tree fruit except tart cherries and did not include grapes. Funding for data collection was supported by industry and grower organizations. Data presented in this release show the highlights. A more detailed report showing the age of planting and more varietal information for other fruit, will be prepared and published. The full report will be on the web at: www.nass.usda.gov/wa.

Total Fruit Acreage, by District, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Area/Year	Apples	Apricots	Sweet Cherries	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears			Prunes/ Plums	Total Tree Fruit	
						Bartlett	Winter	All			
January 1, 1993	Acres										
	Wenatchee	56,000	400	4,800	250	300	NA	NA	12,450	50	74,250
	Yakima Valley	78,000	600	8,700	850	1,900	NA	NA	12,000	1,400	103,450
	Columbia Basin	31,000	350	2,300	350	400	NA	NA	1,300	200	35,900
	All Other Areas	7,000	50	700	50	400	NA	NA	1,850	50	10,100
	State Total	172,000	1,400	16,500	1,500	3,000	12,150	15,450	27,600	1,700	223,700
	January 1, 2001	Acres									
Wenatchee		54,000	450	9,500	250	360	3,650	11,000	14,650	100	79,350
Yakima Valley		90,500	600	12,000	1,000	2,000	7,900	3,000	10,900	900	118,100
Columbia Basin		37,500	200	4,500	250	550	450	500	950	50	43,850
All Other Areas		10,000	50	3,000	0	300	600	900	1,500	50	14,800
State Total		192,000	1,300	29,000	1,500	3,200	12,600	15,400	28,000	1,100	256,100

NA Data not available.

Fruit Acreage, Bearing Age, by District, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Area/Year	Apples	Apricots	Sweet Cherries	Nectarines	Peaches	Pears			Prunes/ Plums	Total Tree Fruit	
						Bartlett	Winter	All			
January 1, 1993	Acres										
	Wenatchee	48,900	360	3,850	220	250	NA	NA	10,100	40	63,720
	Yakima Valley	68,600	570	7,900	660	1,600	NA	NA	11,200	1,260	91,790
	Columbia Basin	24,300	320	1,750	280	300	NA	NA	1,100	150	28,200
	All Other Areas	5,200	50	700	40	350	NA	NA	1,500	50	7,890
State Total	147,000	1,300	14,200	1,200	2,500	11,200	12,700	23,900	1,500	191,600	
January 1, 2001	Acres										
	Wenatchee	48,500	450	6,500	150	300	3,200	9,500	12,700	50	68,600
	Yakima Valley	79,500	550	9,500	850	1,650	7,200	2,900	10,100	850	102,950
	Columbia Basin	31,000	200	3,500	200	450	400	400	800	50	36,200
	All Other Areas	9,000	50	2,500	0	300	500	700	1,200	50	13,100
	State Total	168,000	1,250	22,000	1,200	2,700	11,300	13,500	24,800	1,000	220,850

NA Data not available.

The apple industry is in transition. Total acreage in 1993 was 172,000, and the 2001 acreage is 192,000. However, the 1997 Census of Agriculture shows 204,674 acres of all apples. There is a shift from Red Delicious apples to newer varieties in all areas. The Wenatchee area had the sharpest shift, with 22,400 acres of Red Delicious, a decrease of 40 percent from 1993. Yakima Valley had 40,100 acres, a decrease of 22 percent from 1993, and the Columbia Basin had 16,300 acres of Red Delicious, a decrease of 14 percent. All other areas showed an increase of 60 percent for Red Delicious with 3,200 acres.

The shift to newer varieties has resulted in sharp increases

in the other variety acreage. Yakima Valley had the largest shift, nearly doubling the 1993 level to 50,400 acres for an increase of 90 percent. The Wenatchee area other apple varieties increased 71 percent and the Columbia Basin increased 77 percent. The State total was 110,000 acres, an increase of 48,000 acres or 77 percent, from 1993.

The net change of apple acreage from 1993 was positive for all areas except Wenatchee, which was down 4 percent. Yakima, Columbia Basin, and other areas show increases of 16 percent, 21 percent, and 43 percent respectively.

Total Apple Acreage, by District, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Area	January 1, 1993			January 1, 2001		
	Red Delicious	Other	Total	Red Delicious	Other	Total
	Acres					
Wenatchee	37,500	18,500	56,000	22,400	31,600	54,000
Yakima Valley	51,500	26,500	78,000	40,100	50,400	90,500
Columbia Basin	19,000	12,000	31,000	16,300	21,200	37,500
All Other Areas	2,000	5,000	7,000	3,200	6,800	10,000
State Total	110,000	62,000	172,000	82,000	110,000	192,000

Apple Acreage, Bearing Age, by District, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Area	January 1, 1993			January 1, 2001		
	Red Delicious	Other	Total	Red Delicious	Other	Total
	Acres					
Wenatchee	35,500	13,400	48,900	20,500	28,000	48,500
Yakima Valley	48,500	20,100	68,600	37,000	42,500	79,500
Columbia Basin	17,000	7,300	24,300	13,500	17,500	31,000
All Other Areas	1,500	3,700	5,200	3,000	6,000	9,000
State Total	102,500	44,500	147,000	74,000	94,000	168,000

Apple Acreage and Trees, by Variety, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Variety	January 1, 1993			January 1, 2001		
	Acres	Trees	Trees/Acre	Acres	Trees	Trees/Acre
Red Delicious	110,000	23,120,000	210	82,000	22,900,000	279
Gala	5,900	2,717,000	461	25,500	13,809,000	542
Braeburn	3,300	1,599,000	485	6,100	3,080,000	505
Cameo	-	-	-	3,200	1,790,000	559
Fuji	11,100	6,102,000	550	24,400	14,423,000	591
Ginger Gold	-	-	-	1,600	878,000	549
Golden Delicious	23,300	4,419,000	190	22,700	5,554,000	245
Granny Smith	8,500	4,522,000	532	17,600	8,812,000	501
Honeycrisp	-	-	-	300	166,000	553
Jonagold	1,700	765,000	450	2,400	1,193,000	497
Pink Lady	-	-	-	3,300	1,644,000	498
Rome	3,800	869,000	229	1,300	305,000	235
Winesap	1,100	149,000	135	200	31,000	155
Other Varieties	3,300	738,000	224	1,400	515,000	368
TOTAL	172,000	45,000,000	262	192,000	75,100,000	391

- Not estimated or combined with other varieties.

The shift to newer varieties also reflects higher density plantings, with the average trees per acre at 262 for January 1, 1993, compared with 391 for 2001. The shift in varieties shows a sharp increase in Gala, Braeburn, Cameo, Fuji, Granny Smith, and Pink Lady. Golden Delicious apples declined slightly, with Rome and Winesap dropping sharply.

Gala increased sharply in popularity, going from 5,900 acres in 1993 to 25,500 acres in 2001. The strain of Gala was requested in the survey, and Royal, Imperial, Crimson, Galaxy, Pacific, and Gale were the leading strains in descending order. These six strains account for 21,100 acres or 83 percent of the total Gala acreage.

Gala Acres and Trees, by Strain, Washington, January 1, 2001

Strain	Acres	Trees	Tree/Acre
Brookfield	400	255,000	638
Buckeye	550	493,000	896
Crimson	3,700	2,291,000	619
Gale	1,600	801,000	501
Galaxy	2,100	1,052,000	501
Go-Red	450	228,000	507
Imperial	4,350	2,490,000	572
Standard	100	54,000	540
Pacific	1,750	938,000	536
Royal	7,600	3,590,000	472
Treco #42	450	247,000	549
Scarlet	750	353,000	471
Ultra	900	462,000	513
Supreme	100	35,000	350
Other Gala	700	520,000	743
TOTAL	25,500	13,809,000	542

Red Delicious apples were classified into two categories of strains. The stripe strains accounted for 50,200 acres, a decrease of 32 percent from 1993. The blush strains accounted for 31,800 acres, a decline of 13 percent.

Major stripe strains with decreases from 1993 were Oregon Spur (-62%), Redchief (-20%), Starking (-93%), and Top Red (-61%). Blush strains showed similar changes from 1993 with

Bisbee (-45%) and Redspur (-57%), however; Scarlet Spur more than doubled from the 1993 level of 6,050 acres to 16,350 acres.

The density of the Red Delicious apples increased sharply. The average trees per acre increased from 210 to 279 since January 1, 1993. As older blocks are removed with the traditional spacing patterns, the remaining newer plantings reflect higher densities.

Red Delicious Acres & Trees, by Strain, Washington, January 1, 1993 & 2001

Strain	January 1, 1993			January 1, 2001		
	Acres	Trees	Trees/Acre	Acres	Trees	Trees/Acre
Ace	3,600	1,466,000	407	3,650	1,585,000	434
Anderson	-	-	-	500	151,000	302
Classic	200	44,000	220	200	36,000	180
Early Red One	-	-	-	200	48,000	240
Earlistripe	-	-	-	350	86,000	246
Elite	100	26,000	260	200	100,000	500
Hi-Early	2,750	369,000	134	250	49,000	196
Imperial	300	57,000	190	450	201,000	447
It	-	-	-	700	319,000	456
Oregon Spur	22,400	4,580,000	204	8,600	1,898,000	221
Oregon Spur II	-	-	-	3,100	733,000	236
Redchief	26,900	5,990,000	223	21,650	5,783,000	267
Ryanspur	1,300	321,000	247	650	127,000	195
Silver Spur	650	149,000	229	550	122,000	222
Starking	4,650	632,000	136	400	70,000	175
Super Chief	-	-	-	850	242,000	285
Top Red	7,650	1,219,000	159	3,000	544,000	181
Vallespur	-	-	-	3,150	1,249,000	397
Washington Spur	-	-	-	1,300	501,000	385
Other Stripe	2,900	789,000	272	450	93,000	207
Total Stripe	73,400	15,642,000	213	50,200	13,937,000	278
Atwood	1,250	269,000	215	850	176,000	207
Bisbee	12,900	2,279,000	177	7,100	1,271,000	179
Chelan	700	131,000	187	250	45,000	180
Hardi-Brite Spur	350	66,000	189	-	-	-
Hardi-Spur	650	132,000	203	500	110,000	220
Morgan Spur	-	-	-	850	345,000	406
Redspur	7,600	1,488,000	196	3,300	689,000	209
Royal	100	17,000	170	250	63,000	252
Royal Red	100	14,000	140	-	-	-
Ryan/Ryanred	2,550	609,000	239	300	87,000	290
Scarlet Spur	6,050	1,532,000	253	16,350	5,575,000	341
Wellspur	-	-	-	800	160,000	200
Other Blush	4,350	941,000	216	1,250	442,000	354
Total Blush	36,600	7,478,000	204	31,800	8,963,000	282
Total Red Del.	110,000	23,120,000	210	82,000	22,900,000	279

- Not estimated or combined with other strains.